

media release

Colorado Department of Agriculture

www.colorado.gov/ag

www.facebook.com/coloradoag

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2014

Contact:

Christi Lightcap, (303) 239-4190, Christi.Lightcap@state.co.us

Timothy J. Larsen, (303) 239-4118, Timothy.Larsen@state.co.us

First Quarter 2014 Agricultural Exports Increase \$64.8 Million

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – Colorado's agricultural exports exceeded \$2 billion in 2013, and have already grown \$64.8 million (19%) in the first quarter of 2014. Colorado's first quarter exports went to 96 countries, which is six more countries than in the first quarter of 2013.

Colorado's top export increases:

- Mexico increased by \$32 million
- China increased by \$8.3 million
- Japan increased by \$6.7 million.

The increased exports to Mexico came from a range of products including meat, dairy products, hides, animal feed and processed foods. China's increase consisted primarily of hide imports, with that country now importing more than 50 percent of Colorado's total hides. Japan's increased imports were from beef, a result of their expanded market access allowed in 2013.

"Increasing exports is critical to Colorado agriculture and our rural communities," said Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar. "Colorado is pleased to have the Mexican government reduce import restrictions for Colorado and U.S. potatoes effective this month."

After decades of restrictions, the Mexican market will expand their market access for fresh potatoes beginning May 19, 2014. Colorado is the leading exporter of fresh potatoes to Mexico with over 50 percent of the market. Last year Colorado shipped on average seven truckloads of fresh potatoes to Mexico every day. The market is projected to grow four fold in the next few years.

"We still have access barriers for our major sectors including beef, wheat and dairy, that prevent Colorado agriculture from reaching full sales potential," said Commissioner Salazar. "Increasing global access for Colorado agricultural products remains a focus of my office."

Additional trade statistics and details on the various trade barriers are available at www.coloradoagriculture.com.

International marketing specialists are available to assist in beginning and expanding Colorado's export markets. Assistance includes training for export operations, assessment of market options, international finance and accessing USDA funding support for exporters. For more information visit www.coloradoagriculture.com, call (303) 239-4118 or e-mail Timothy.Larsen@state.co.us.

###